

CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: ANNE E. SCHWARTZ
PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
414-935-7209

DRUG SUSPECT SHOT AFTER VIOLENT FIGHT WITH OFFICER

A Milwaukee Police officer shot a 26-year-old drug suspect as the man violently fought with police. The incident occurred at 10:24 p.m. in the area of N. 48th and W. Burleigh Streets on Sunday, January 18, 2009.

Two uniformed officers in a marked squad observed the vehicle in which the suspect was a passenger driving in a suspicious manner and also saw that the vehicle had a defective headlamp. The officers stopped the vehicle.

As the officers approached the vehicle, they observed drugs inside and ordered the suspect out of the car. The suspect immediately began physically fighting with the officers, continuing the attack as the men fell to the ground. The suspect kicked one officer in the head and kept reaching toward his waist for what one officer believed to be a weapon. The suspect ignored the officers' repeated commands to stop resisting arrest. One of the officers, fearing for his and his partner's life, drew his weapon and fired once at the suspect, striking him in the chest. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene.

Both officers were treated at a local hospital for abrasions and cuts they suffered during the fight. They were released following treatment.

Milwaukee police were on the scene early Monday morning continuing to search for a weapon in the snow banks.

The officer who discharged his weapon is 34 years old with nearly eight years of service.

The suspect has a lengthy record with the Milwaukee Police Department for drug and weapons offenses. He is currently wanted on a warrant for drugs.

As is standard operating procedure, the incident is under investigation by the Milwaukee Police Department and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, and the officer was placed on administrative duty pending the completion of the investigation. The Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office will make the final determination in the incident.

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